Parish Offerings – 5th Sunday of the Great Fast – Apr. 3, 2022

"Everyone must give according to whatever he has inwardly decided; not sadly, not grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor 9:7)

Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks

Regular Offering (\$3,504) YP (\$7)	\$3,511.00
Holy Days (\$290) Easter (\$70) Décor (\$41)	401.00
Churches of Eastern Europe	25.00
Votive Candles	

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

D 1 OCC :	Φ.C.C 0.0
Regular Offering	\$662.00
Holy Days (\$30) Easter (\$35)	65.00
Utilities (\$15) Improvement (\$35)	50.00
Candles	. 33.85

Church Attendance Last Week \$810.85

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (40)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (54); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (34)

VI Lenten Wednesday — (MR) 7:00 pm (16); VI Lenten Friday — (NS) 6:00 pm (6) Lazarus Saturday — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (6)







HOLY WEEK THE WEEK THAT CHANGED THE WORLD DESIGNS BY NANCY

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Call the office (412) 771-3324

Please patronize our fabulous sponsors! They make it possible to bring you this weekly & informative S.O.T. without an added expense to the Church. New Sponsors please contact Church 9 til 1:00 p.m. Mon-Fri!



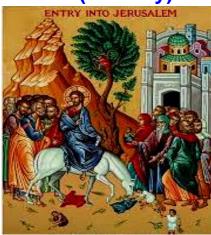
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE ROYAL ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM

Palm (Flowery) Sunday — April 10, 2022





Catholics of the Ruthenian – Byzantine Rite in full communion with the Pope of Rome

The Very Reverend Father Frank A. Firko, Pastor The Reverend Deacon Michael Meaders (NS)

Rectory: (412) 771-3324; Church Fax: (412) 331-1870 MR School Hall Kitchen: (412) 331-5155

Web-site: www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org — E-Mail: ffaf334@verizon.net SUNDAY RADIO (9:00 am WEDO 810 AM) & INTERNET DIVINE LITURGY Liturgical Services LIVE: www.Youtube.com then type: Holy Ghost Church Live Stream

Sunday Divine Liturgies Saturday (MR) 4:00 pm Sunday (MR) 9: 00 am Holy Ghost (NS) 11:00 a.m. Holy Day Divine Liturgies w/Great Vespers (Oblig) (MR): 7:00 pm Holy Day (MR) 9:00 am; (NS) 6:00 pm

Daily Divine Liturgy M-F (MR) 8:00 am Sat. (NS) 9:00 am.

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation: Sat (MR): 3:15 to 3:40 pm & Sun (MR) 8:15 to 8:40 am.; (NS) 10:30 am Holy Mysteries of Initiation: Contact Church Office for Baptism, Chrismation and Eucharist. Holy Mysteries of Anointing: Ask especially prior to surgery or any other time. Holy Mystery of Matrimony: Contact pastor one year in advance; Pre-Cana Classes required. Sponsor of Christian Initiation: Godparents must be practicing Catholics. Religious Education Classes: (MR) Coordinator: Steve Puluka (412) 897- 4650. GCU Lodge 390: (MR) Contact Tina Burns (412) 859-9597 for membership requirements. Slavjane Folk Ensemble: (MR) Membership requirements contact Bob Bartko: (412) 779-0915. Carpatho-Rusyn Radio Broadcast: Every Sunday from 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. WPIT 730 AM. Social Hall Rental for (MR) Parishioners: Contact Rectory Office: (412) 771-3324. New & Returning Parishioners: Welcome! Please register by phoning the Church in Your Will: Please he so kind as to remember the Church in Your Will: Please he so kind as to remember the Church in Your Will: Please he so kind as to remember the Church in Your Will: Please he so kind as to remember the Church in Your Will: Please he so kind as to remember the Church in Your Will: Please he so kind as to remember the Church in Your Will: Please he so kind as to remember the Church in Your Will: Please he so kind as to remember the Church in Your Will: Please he so kind as to remember the Church in Your Will: Please he so kind as to remember the Church in Your Will: Please he so kind as to remember the Church in Your Will: Please he so kind as to remember the Church in Your Will: Please he so kind as to remember the Church in Your Will: Please he so kind as to remember the Church in Your Will: Please he so kind as to remember the Church Office.

Remember the Church in Your Will: Please be so kind as to remember the Church in your last will and testament. This helps to secure its future & a Byzantine Catholic witness to all!

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

April 10, 2022

Date

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XII Number 15



Glory to Jesus Christ! — Glory Forever! Slava Isusu Christu! — Slava Na Viki!

Sunday Liturgical Services for the Week

Time Intention Requested By

ROYAL ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM

Palm (Flowery) Sunday — Solemn Blessing of Palms & Willows

SUN., Apr 10

*** 8:45 a.m. (MR) + Mary Fejka (26th ann of passing 4/6)

*** 10:45 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

3:00 p.m. (MR) Passion Week Vespers commencing Holy Week followed by Confessions

HOLY (PASSION) WEEK

Holy Mon, Apr 11

8:00 a.m. (MR) Bridegroom Matins

6:30 p.m. (MR) Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary

7:00 p.m. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy 8:00 a.m. (MR) Bridegroom Matins

Holy Tue, Apr 12



*** 5:15 p.m. (NS) Special Confession Time

6:00 p.m. (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)



8:00 a.m. (MR) Bridegroom Matins

6:30 p.m. (MR) Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary

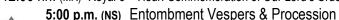
7:00 p.m. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Institution of the Most Holy Eucharist

HOLY THRS, APR 14 8:00 a.m. (MR) Betrayal Matins

7:00 p.m. (MR) Great Vespers w/St. Basil Divine Liturgy **REQUIRED STRICT ABSTINENCE** (no meat and dairy products)

HOLY & GREAT FRI, APR 15 8:00 a.m. (MR) Passion Matins w/12 Passions Gospels 12:00 nn. (MR) Royal 6TH Hour: Commemoration of Our Lord's Crucifixion





7:00 p.m. (MR) Entombment Vespers & Procession

24 Hour Continuous Vigil Before The Tomb — Church Opened For Devotion RECOMMENDED Simple Abstinence (no meat) on Holy Saturday

8:00 a.m.(MR) Sepulcher Matins w/Procession indoors HOLY SAT, APR 16

2:00 p.m. (MR) Great Vespers w/St. Basil Divine Liturgy

IC XC

Antiticipated Resurrectional (Easter Sunday) Liturgical Services

5:45 p.m. (NS) Resurrectional Matins & Blessing of Paschal Foods in Church. 7:45 p.m. (MR) Resurrectional Matins w/ Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Paschal Foods

DIANT RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Easter (PASCHA) Sunday — The Great Day — MIROVANIJE

SUN., APR 21 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

11:00 a.m. (NS) + George Hudanick, Sr. Wife: Dolores & Family

General Announcements

All Birthdays will be published in SOT each week so that prayers may be offered on these special occasions. Please advise the Church office if your special day does not appear or if you wish your name and date not be published.

Note: Capitalized Names designate North Side parishioners

Birthdays: Apr 10 – ALAN HARPER: Apr 13 – Margaret Cifrulak; Apr 14 – Kathryn Kress, Elias Stebbins; Apr 15 - Stephen Katrenich

HOME: Margaret Beliunas, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, Dolores Kosko, Steve Kosko, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, BETTY LORINC, Irene Muha, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Dan Pikras, Lisa Plutto, Betty Spisak, Anita Wolsko, Nancy (Shanta) Wauthier, Evelyn Yakubik.

MAPLEWOOD PC HOME (461 Maplewood Ave. Ambridge, PA 15003): Doris Naughton. HIGHLAND PARK CARE CENTER (745 North Highland Ave., Pgh, PA 15206): Linda Reiger. CHIPPEWA PLACE (7005 Stadium Dr., Apt 427, Brecksville, OH 44141): Stephen Katrenich. FAIR OAKS ASSISTED LIVING (2200 W. Liberty Ave., Pgh, 15226): ANNA MARIE DEMIANCZYK.

LUTHERAN SENIORLIFE (500 Wittenberg Way, Mars PA 16046): William Zavidny. VETERANS HOSPITAL (1010 Delafield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15215): JOHN VEREB. THE RESIDENCE AT WILLOW LANE (30 Heckel Rd., MR, PA 15136): Helen Best, Margaret Cifrulak. Mildred Terrek.

CONCORDIA VILLA OF ST. JOSEPH (1030 W. State St., Baden, PA 15005: Irene Bordas. CONCORDIA AT RACHEL RESIDENCE (3746 Cedar Ridge Rd., Allison Park, PA): DOLORES HUNDANICK

UPMC PRESBYTERIAN (200 Lothrop St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213) Tim Kacsur.

Pray For the III. Infirm & Shut-ins of Our Parishes

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. I'd like to help some friends who are having trouble with the faith, but I'm no expert and am afraid to get in over my head. What should I do? A. Catholic Answers Apologist: Jump right in. The biggest mistake is to do nothing. You don't need to be an expert, and you don't need a degree in theology. Normally common sense and your personal testimony of the faith will be your best tools. If you're asked a question you can't answer, admit your ignorance. (The worst thing is to pretend you know the answer when you don't.) Say you'll have to get back to the inquirer—and then go to the library and look up the answer. At Catholic Answers we have to do this all the time, although in our case we have the library right here at our offices.



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

Continue to burn before the real Eucharistic presence of our Lord, God & Savior Jesus

April 10, 2019 — April 16, 2022

(MR): In memory of Mary Fejka (26th ann of passing 4/6)

offered by Datr: Susie

(NS): In memory of Madelyn Harding

(MR) All reserved for 2019 offered by Dgtrs: Michelle & Tamara (NS) All reserved for 2019

Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks

SYMPATHIES EXTENDED — The Spirit of Truth announces the passing of parishioner, Joseph



Mitro, 99, of McKees Rocks who passed away at Celebration Villa Personal Care Facility, Allison Park, PA, on Thursday, March 31, 2022 four months shy of his one hundredth birthday. The Edward Kanai Funeral Home, Pittsburgh (Greenfield), handled the arrangements He is survived by several nephews and nieces, especially Barbara (Gary) Lamanna, Glenshaw. The Mitro Family is extremely grateful to Donna (Harry) Herron for the sacrificial domestic care that she lovingly provided for their uncle. The Funeral Services were at Holy Ghost Church on April 7th @ 11:00 a.m. Interment took place at Calvary Cemetery, Pittsburgh. Our Parish extends its most sincere sympathies to the Mitro Family. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to

your servant, Joseph, and remember him forever. Vicnaja Jemu Pamjat'!

ECF HOLDS EGG HUNT TODAY — Our Eastern Christian Formation Religious Program is sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt today **Palm Sunday**, **April 10**. It is for our children from Pre-Kindergarten to 5th grade. Psunky Paschal Eggs remind us of the New Life coming forth from the shell symbolizing Christ breaking forth from the tomb!

BYZAN-TEENS HOLD CANDY SALE — Our Holy Ghost Youth Group continues to hold a fund-raiser for their trip to the Byzan-TEEN Youth Rally. They are selling Sarris Candy Bars at \$1.00 each. Youth Group members will be available following the Divine Liturgy under the side entrance of the porch.

Holy Ghost, North Side

NO PARTICULAR ANNOUNCEMENTS THIS WEEK

EXTRA CONFESSOR THIS AFTERNOON — Our pastor is conscripting an additional Confessor to aid in hearing Confessions Palm Sunday afternoon following the 3:00 p.m. Passion Week Vespers. Please make every effort to make a good and worthy confession of sins as we prepare for the salutary events of Holy Week & Easter! Use this opportunity to fulfill your **Easter Duty Precepts (Confession & Holy Communion)!** You may also make your confession at the ordinary times listed on the front page of the S.O.T. **Also, be reminded that there is a special Confession time on the NS @ 5:15 p.m.** A Guide to Confession is available in the narthex and vestibule of the Church.

SPECIAL GRATITUDE FROM THE PROTOPRESBYTERY (DEANERY) — A special thank you is extended to those who attended our Deanery Penitential Vespers these past five Sundays of The Great Fast. Each Sunday had app. 60-80 faithful from parishes comprising the Greater Pittsburgh Protopresbytery. We are grateful to the clergy and parishes that hosted them.

Sanctification of Paschal Foods

REQUESTING ALL HOUSEHOLDS TO BRING AN EASTER BASKET — Following



the Resurrectional Matins/Divine Liturgy on Holy Saturday Evening and Easter Sunday Morning, Paschal Foods will be solemnly blessed. All households are highly recommended to bring an Easter Basket with some traditional foods. Special Paschal blessings are

bestowed upon them so please don't deprive yourself or your family and friends of God's blessing as you partake of this sanctified food in the joy of the Radiant Resurrection of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

PALM (FLOWERY) SUNDAY

Significance of Palms & Pussy Willows in Byzantine Rite (John 12: 1 – 18)

The Triumphal Entry of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem before His Passion was celebrated with particular solemnity since the first centuries of Christianity. In the Byzantine



Rite it is considered one of the twelve Major Feasts of the liturgical year. Its official name is the "Royal Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem." It is always celebrated on the Sunday before Easter with the solemn blessing of branches (Palms, Willows & Olive Branches). Popularly it was also called Willow Sunday (Verbna Ned'ilja) because in Europe, pussywillows were blessed instead of palms. It is also known as Flowery Sunday (Cvitna Ned'ilja) since in and near

Constantinople they used to distribute early spring flowers, such as branches of lilac or elder, to the faithful, (cf. Constantine Proph. in P.G. 112, 412). From ancient times, **Palm-branches were symbols of victory and triumph.** The Romans used to reward their champions of the games with palm-branches. Also, military triumphs, i.e., the celebrations of victory, were observed with palms. It seems that the Jews followed the same custom (Lev. 23:40; I Mace. 13:37) of carrying palm-branches on their festive occasions. That is what happened during the solemn entry of Jesus into the Holy City before His last Passover (Jn. 12:13), **Pussy Willows signify 'new life"** and **Olive Branches signify "peace."** In the New Testament, the palm-branches become a symbol of martyrdom (Rev. 7:9) meaning victory over death. For this reason, in Christian art martyrs were usually represented with palms in their hands. Thus, since the end of the fourth century, the palm-branch also became a symbol of the Resurrection. (P.G. 33, 1025-1028). Jesus Christ, after raising Lazarus (Jn. 11:1-44), was finally recognized by the Jewish people as their Messiah. When He arrived in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, they greeted Him with a triumphant welcome. The Evangelist, however, hastened to remark that it was done in fulfillment of a prophecy (Mt. 21:4-5).

FINAL DAYS OF CHRIST THE BRIDEGROOM

The first three weekdays of Holy Week centers its theme upon Christ the

Bridegroom. The special Matins services offered a commemoration of the last days in the earthly life of the Lord are recounted. We are vicariously present as Christ presents His last teaching discourse to the disciples. As such, these services incorporate readings and hymns inspiring this theme. The mood of the services is to experience sorrow and to feel Christ's voluntary submission to His passions and highlight the purpose behind the evil that is about to take place against the Lord. The atmosphere is one of mourning (for sins) and is symbolic of the shame the Christian should feel for the Fall of Adam and Eve, the depths of



hell, the lost Paradise and the absence of God. The main emphasis of the Bridegroom Matins is metanoia (a complete change of direction in following Christ) and each service has its own particular theme of repentance and watchfulness. One of its primary features is its Troparion: Behold, the Bridegroom comes in the middle of the night, and blessed is the servant He shall find vigilant; but unworthy is he whom He shall find neglectful. Beware awake therefore, O my soul, lest you be weighed down by sleep, and be given over to death and be closed out from the kingdom; rise up crying out: Holy! Holy! Holy are You our God; through the intercession of the Theotokos, have mercy on us."

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Including Holy Week & Easter & Bright Week

April 10 Palm (Flowery) Sunday — All weekend Divine Liturgies commence 15 minutes earlier for Solemn Blessing of Palms & Pussy Willows.

... Passion Vespers inaugurating Holy Week @ 3:00 p.m. followed by Confessions by extra Confessor.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE (April 15 through April 20)

Great & Holy Monday (MR) Bridgoroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m. Great & Holy Tuesday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.(NS) Confessions @ 5:15 p.m.

Great & Holy Wednesday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m. Great & Holy Thursday. ... (MR) Betrayal Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Vespers & St. Basil Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m. Great & Holy Friday .. (MR) Passion Matins w/12 Passion Gospels @ 8:00 a.m. — (MR) Royal Hours @ 12:00 noon

(MR) CHURCH WILL REMAIN OPEN FROM 12:00 NOON UNTIL 3:00 pm FOR PRIVATE DEVOTION

(NS) Entombment Vespers w/Procession @ 5:00 p.m. & (MR) Entombment Vespers w/Procession @ 7:00 p.m.

ALL NIGHT VIGIL BEFORE THE TOMB (Please Signup)

Great & Holy Sat. (MR) Sepulcher (Jerusalem) Matins w/Procession @ 8:00 a.m. — (MR) Great Vespers w/St. Basil Vigil Divine Liturgy @ 2:00 p.m. — (NS) Resurrectional Matins & Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods @ 5:45 p.m. in Church — (MR) Resurrectional Matins & Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods @ 7:45 p.m.

APRIL 17 - EASTER SUNDAY — THE RADIANT RESURRECTION — THE GREAT DAY

(MR) 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods — (NS) 11:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods.

BRIGHT WEEK

* The Bright Hours will be celebrated at the Empty Tomb 15 minutes before each Bright Week Divine Liturgy

April 18 .. Bright Monday w/procession (Solemn): (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 6:00 p.m. April 19 Bright Tuesday (Simple): (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 6:00 p.m. Feast of the Holy Great-Martyr & Victory Bearer, St. George, the Wonder-Worker

Bright Wednesday through Saturday: (MR) All Morning Divine Liturgies in Main Church

Holy Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday **The Final Presanctified Divine Liturgies**

On the evening of these first three days of Holy Week the Presanctified Divine Litural is celebrated. The Church calls us to begin our preparation for the forthcoming passion, death and burial of Our Lord Jesus and to accompany Him to the consummation of the redemptive acts by which salvation was secured for us. Let us use this time wisely and manifest our loyalty to Him Who now approaches the Holy Passion and join Him as He affects our salvation. Of the several parables that we will hear proclaimed in the Gospel, the one concerning the "wise and Foolish virgins is particularly important. It teaches us that we must



always be prepared to meet the Bridegroom Christ whenever He decides to come for us!

Holy & Great Thursday Institution of the Most Holy Eucharist

At the Mystical Supper in the Upper Room Jesus gave a radically new meaning to the food and drink of the sacred meal. He identified Himself with the bread and wine: "Take, eat; this is my Body. Drink of it all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant" enacts sacramentally the redemptive event of the Cross and participates in its saving grace.

General Announcements

Holy & Great Thursday (cont.)

This does not suggest that the Eucharist attempts to reclaim a past event. The Eucharist does not repeat what cannot be repeated. Christ is not slain anew and repeatedly. Rather the

Eucharistic food is changed concretely and truly into the Body and Blood of the Lamb of God, "Who gave Himself up for the life of the world." Christ continually offers Himself to the faithful through these consecrated Gifts. In the Eucharist we receive and partake of the Resurrected Christ. We share in His sacrificed, risen and deified Body,



"for the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting" (Divine Liturgy). Make this an important event to attend rendering thanks for the Holy Eucharist. How precious our Byzantine Catholic Church truly is! This is a great opportunity to fulfill your Easter Duty Precept!

Holy & Great Friday

The Passion, Death & Entombment of Our Lord

Praying that you will join us for this historical and inspiring salvific event! On this day of STRICT ABSTINENCE (no meat or dairy products) is permitted as we commemorate the



sufferings of Christ: the mockery, the crown of thorns, the scourging, the nails, the thirst, the vinegar and gall, the cry of desolation, and all that the Savior endured on the Cross. Great Friday and Holy Saturday direct our attention to the trial, crucifixion, death and burial of Christ. We are placed within the awesome mystery of the extreme humility of our suffering God. Therefore, these days are at once days of deep gloom as well as watchful expectation. The Author of life is at work

transforming death into life: "Come, let us see our Life (Jesus) lying in the tomb, that he may give life to those that in their tombs lying dead" (Sticherion of Great Saturday). Near the end of the Entombment Vespers the Arimathean Procession occurs with the Burial Shroud (Plaschanica) taken in procession around the Church by the priest and faithful. Near its conclusion, it is placed in the tomb near the front of the Church. It remains there for all night veneration.

SEPULCHER MATINS & GREAT VESPERS w/ST. BASIL

Holy Saturday morning prayer of the Sepulcher (Jerusalem) Matins with an inside procession commemorates Our Lord's descent into Hades to rescue the Holy & Just and takes them to the New Jerusalem (Heaven). The afternoon celebrates Great Vespers & St. Basil Divine Liturgy which is the initial commencement of Our Lord's Radiant Resurrection. The dark coverings and Priestly vestments are changed to bright colors announcing the destruction of death and the introduction of New Life. Let us be with our Lord by participating in these moving ceremonies! (cf. liturgical schedule for times). We need 4 volunteers to help the celebrant.

Resurrectional Matins The Myrrh-Bearers Procession to the Tomb

This is one of the most memorable liturgical celebrations ringing in the iov of the Radiant Resurrection. The faithful enter a darkened Church symbolizing the Tomb of Our Lord quietly awaiting in anxious anticipation the promise of the Resurrection. Following the Myrrh-Bearers Procession around the Church, the priest declares that CHRIST IS RISEN and while rolling back the large stone (the Church Doors) enters a radiant and brilliant Church festively singing Christ's Resurrection! Thus, it reminds us of the same joy and wonder that the women disciples experienced of the Empty Tomb.

